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Lake Winnisquam Scenic Trail along the shore of beautiful Lake Winnisquam

BRATT
Belmont Recreation & Alternative Transportation Team
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Beginning in 1999, Belmont, through BRATT, its trails committee, has been working to establish a trail system through town in or near the State’s railroad right-of-way along Lake Winnisquam. In 2005, Belmont was awarded a Transportation Enhancement grant to build the first phase of the project from the Laconia city line to Mosquito Bridge. Since then, work has been diligently pursued to fund the project, as well as deal with numerous design constraints that developed as the project has progressed.

Phase 1 was completed in August 2016 and begins at the Laconia city line and travels over an existing sidewalk turning on to Leslie E. Roberts Drive. It then quickly turns onto Horse Point Road and onto NH DOT land traversing through the woods on land that at one time was slated to be the extension to Franklin of the Laconia By-Pass, but now held as conservation land. Continuing, the trail turns down to the former B&M Railroad (now NH DOT) railroad tracks, across a trail easement donated by

![Traveling north on an easement across privately owned land.](image)

Sun Lake Village, and runs along Lake Winnisquam in the rail corridor. Finally, the trail turns onto an easement at Osborne’s Agway to its end at the Daniel Webster Highway. The trail is 1.8 miles long with a maximum grade of 8%.

The Winni Trail is not your typical rail-trail as it departs from the railroad ROW heading onto wooded conservation properties to offer challenging hills and curves. Nature abounds on this section of the trail!

The next two phases to be built at some time in the future will connect to a future phase of the Winnipesaukee River Trail at Jamestown Road at the Tilton town line. We anticipate that with successful completion of Phase 1 that momentum will build to fund and construct the remainder of the trail to make a truly, regional trail system. One day, imagine riding from Meredith to Lebanon or Concord and beyond - all on a dedicated bikeway!

![Looking south towards Mosquito Bridge and the Sandbar.](image)

![Entrance at Osborne’s Agway has 4 parking spots.](image)

![Entrance at Horse Point Road. Parking is at the upper beach lot.](image)

![A typical wooded, rolling section of the trail.](image)